

II.—Two new Species of *Sylvilagus* from Colombia.

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THE British Museum owes to Frère Apollinaris Maria of Bogota four cotton-tails of the genus *Sylvilagus* from the neighbourhood of that place. They belong to two species, neither of which can I identify with any older-known form.

One is a member of the short-eared group of which *S. surdaster* and *meridensis* are members, and may be called

*Sylvilagus apollinaris*, sp. n.

Size about as in *S. meridensis*. Fur long, of medium texture, the longer hairs of the back about 19–20 mm. in length; underfur soft and fine, about 11–12 mm. long. General colour as usual, mixed black and greyish buffy, the dorsal hairs with dark bases (about 8 mm.), with a 4 mm. pale ring, and the long black tip about 7 mm. in length. The general tone resulting is darker than in the longer-eared section of the genus, paler than in *surdaster*, less smoky than in *meridensis*. Under surface white without buffy or cinnamon tinge, the belly-hairs very faintly greyer at their bases. Face with rather well-marked supraorbital white stripe, and a second one along the hinder end of the cheek. Ears very short, little more than half the length of the nuchal patch, well-haired, the proectote grizzled with the margin black, the metentote white. Nuchal patch large, strong pinkish cinnamon. Upper surface of forearms, hands, lower leg, and feet pinkish cinnamon or cinnamon-buff, the tips of the digits alone whitish. Rump more buffy than back, the tail, which is a mere little knob, similar to it for the most part, but with a darker area above, and white below.

Skull broad, upper surface of the brain-case very strongly granulated. Postorbital processes well developed, slightly spatulate, just free of the cranial bones terminally. Palatal foramina ending level with the front edge of the anterior premolar, narrow, not widened mesially, their broadest point at their posterior end. Palatal bridge fairly broad, without any trace of a posterior projecting spine. Bullæ lost in type, but those of a young specimen which appears to be of the same species fairly well developed, markedly larger than in *S. surdaster*.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Hind foot 78 mm.; ear 42.

Skull: tip of nasals to hinder edge of interparietal 68; zygomatic breadth 36; nasals (oblique) 28; interorbital breadth 17.4; front of incisors to back of  $m^3$  36; palatal foramina  $19 \times 6.3$ ; palatal bridge 8; upper check-tooth series (alveoli) 13.8.

*Hab.* Choachi, near Bogota.

*Type.* Adult skin and skull. B.M. no. 19.10.15.2. Received in exchange from Frère Apollinaris Maria.

This cotton-tail is one of the very short-eared members of the group, but is obviously different from the species above mentioned or any other that we have. Of those we do not possess, Allen's *Sylvilagus salentus* is the only one needing mention. But this is from the heights above the Cauca Valley, and is therefore completely separated by the Magdalena Valley from Choachi. The black tips to its dorsal hairs are measured as 15 mm. in length, as compared with 7 mm. in *apollinaris*, and the nuchal patch is said to be only a little longer than the ears when laid back. On this account it seems probable that *salentus* is a member of the longer-eared group, though Dr. Allen gives neither measurement nor statement as to the actual length of the ears.

Besides the specimen now described, the British Museum contains two examples received from Mr. Child about twenty years ago, but one had no skull, the other was young, so they have never been previously determined.

The second species sent by Frère Apollinaris is represented by three specimens, and is a member of the longer-eared group. It appears to be quite different from any described form, and may be called

*Sylvilagus purgatus*, sp. n.

A very pale-coloured species of the longer-eared section.

General appearance most like that of *S. margaritæ*, but even paler. Fur short and coarse, longer hairs of back 16–17 mm. in length; underfur thin and poor, about 8 mm. long. General colour of the same sort of mixture as in *margaritæ*, but decidedly paler and greyer—paler and greyer, in fact, than in any other Colombian cotton-tail; dorsal hairs with about 7–8 mm. at the base dark, then 4 mm. pale buffy, the black tip about 5 mm. Under surface not specially white, the hairs mostly with pale slaty bases, and washed, except just along the middle line, with pale buffy. Crown

rather more ochraceous than back. Eyes surrounded by well-marked white rings. Chin and interramia prominently white. Ears of medium length, the proectote not or scarcely blackened at the edge terminally, extreme edges white; metentote whitish. Nuchal patch large, projected backwards mesially, prominently contrasted deep rich hazel. Hands and feet white above, with an inconspicuous edging of cinnamon externally. Tail apparently like back above, whitish below, but a good example is not present on any one of these skins.

Skull not unlike that of *S. margaritæ*, with similarly broadened postorbital processes, narrow palatal bridge, with tendency to a posterior median spine; palatal foramina broadened mesially and ending behind opposite the middle of the anterior premolar. Bullæ rather large for the group.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body (approximate) 420 mm.; hind foot 77; ear 53.

Skull: greatest length 76; condylo-incisive length 67; zygomatic breadth 34; nasals (oblique) 31; interorbital breadth 18; front of incisor to back of  $m^3$  38; palatal foramina, length 20, breadth at middle 6.2, behind 4.5; palatal bridge 6.5; cheek-tooth series (alveoli) 14.7.

*Hab.* Purificacion, Magdalena Valley, S.W. of Bogota.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 19. 10. 15. 3. Received in exchange from Frère Apollinaris Maria. Three specimens.

This cotton-tail is one of a considerable number of species known from Colombia and Venezuela which are all rather closely allied, but it differs from all by its conspicuously paler coloration. Superficially it most resembles *S. margaritæ*, but is, of course, geographically distant from that animal.

The three specimens are all absolutely alike.

III. — *The Classification of the Fishes of the Family Cichlidæ.*—I. *The Tanganyika Genera.* By C. TATE REGAN, M.A., F.R.S.

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IN his 'Catalogue of African Freshwater Fishes' (iii. p. 134, 1915) Boulenger has written of the Cichlidæ: "The classification of the very numerous African members of this family presents the greatest difficulties, and the division into genera, as here followed, is unsatisfactory and open to criticism, the